(b) In keeping with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 establishment of Consular relations between two States takes place by mutual consent. It is for the foreign Governments desirous of opening a Consular Post/Office, to convey their intentions to the receiving State through diplomatic channels. While examining such requests, inter alia the principle of reciprocity is normally observed.

Role of ICCR in the Exhibition in Austria

2795. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the role played by the ICCR in the 'Magic Hands' exhibition organised at Schallaburg Castle in Austria;

(b) who were the other collaborators of the exhibition and what assistance was rendered by ICCR to them;

(c) what other support and funds were given by ICCR;

(d) who are the officers of ICCR or the Indian mission or Ministry who visited the exhibition; and

(e) whether Government are aware that most of the master craftsmen have returned from the exhibition dissatisfied, and if so, what are the reasons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) An exhibition titled Magic Hands is being held in Austria since April, 1993 at the International Exhibition Centre, Schallaburg Castle. The exhibition has been organised by ICCR in collaboration with Crafts Museum, New Delhi and the Department of Culture of the Government of Lower Austria.

The exhibition has been organised on cost sharing basis. Four batches of Indian craftsmen are to visit Austria of which two batches would be financed by ICCR packing, freight and insurance for sector Delhi-Schallaburg Castle has been borne by the Austrian side. Return costs on packing, freight will be borne by ICCR. Items for permanent display at Schallaburg Castle have been made by the craftsmen in India at the expense of the Austrian side and transported at their expense.

The Commissioner of the exhibition from the Indian side is Dr. Jyotindra Jain, Senior Director, Crafts Museum, New Delhi and from the Austrian side Mr. Ramesh Biswas an Indian resident in Austria.

(d) On behalf of ICCR Dr. Jyotindra Jain, Senior Director, Crafts Museum travelled to Austria as Commissioner of the Exhibition on April, 1993 to make final arrangements for the inauguration.

Shri Vasant Sathe, President, ICCR alongwith his Private Secretary were present at the inauguration of the exhibition in Austria at the invitation of the Government of Lower Austria. Director General, ICCR also visited the exhibition in April, 1993. From the Indian Embassy the Ambassador of India was present at the inauguration.

(e) ICCR has not received any complaint from the craftsmen on their return from Austria.

Posts Lying Vacant in Central Passport Offices in the Country

2796. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the sanctioned strength, occupancy and vacancy in the substantive grade of Passport Officer, Assistant Passport Officer, Public Relation Officer and Superintendents in the Central Passport Organisations;

(b) what is the deputation quota in each of the above grades and actual occupancy of deputationists in each grade;

(c) since how long posts in each grade have been lying vacant and how vacancies are proposed to be filled up on regular basis;

(d) whether in view of huge pendency and deterioration in waiting time to get passports, the Government will consider in public interests to take officers from other Ministries/Departments of the government of India on deputation against vacant posts atleast till CPO cadre officers with required seniority become eligible; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The information is enclosed in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Vacancies have been occuring in different grades of the Central Passport Organisation from time to time on account of retirement